

BA 2004

MORRIS-STIFFLER HOUSE

1881-1896

PARKTON

PRIVATE

One of the finest rural-style dwellings in Parkton, the present Stiffler house was probably built by Mary S. Morris, wife of Nicholas Morris, who had bought three parcels of the defunct Kolter lumbering company in 1881 for a very small sum. The next available checkpoint is the 1896 tax ledger, wherein Mrs. Mary S. Morris was charged with a dwelling worth \$1200, a substantial sum. The house was sold to Jacob C. Stiffler in 1910 and continues in his family. This is a T-shaped frame and clapboard house in Victorian style, set on high ground near the highway. There is a porch set in the angle between the two wings. There are scroll brackets on the porch columns and decorative scrolls in the gable peak. On the grounds are a square, gable-roofed brick tool shed, an 18 by 22-foot stable of vertical board, cantilevered over a stone foundation.

MAGI 0320045604

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC MORRIS-STIFFLER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

Stiffler House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

18,917 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Parkton

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

## PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

—EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

—MILITARY

—OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Emily R. Stiffler

Telephone #: 357-8852

STREET &amp; NUMBER

18,917 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Parkton

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21120

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: OTG 4759

Folio #: 445

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

MORRIS-STIFFLER HOUSE

BA-2004

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Morris-Stiffler House is a T-shaped two-story frame and clapboard Victorian house set close to the road on ground that drops sharply into a small, scenic valley. One-story, shed-roofed porches are attached to either leg of the "T" parallel to the road and south (downroad or to the right) of the main block. Entrance is via a paneled door opening on the front porch; a shallow entrance hall leads to the left into a parlor.

The street facade of the house is four bays wide, two bays in the gable end of the main block, two set somewhat farther apart in the porch facade. Windows are double-hung sash types, 2-over-2 in layout, the panes vertically divided, the windows provided with louvered shutters. There is one small square window fitted with four lights in the gable end. The gable peak is decorated with one pendant scroll-bracket.

The porch on the road facade is supported by four square columns, machine-turned in the midsections to a circular cross-section. The columns are decorated with scroll brackets. The porch is partly railed in; the railing is provided with square balusters, painted white.

The porch deck is wood, one step above sidewalk level at the entrance steps, but at the south end of the house the deck is several feet above the side yard, supported by a stone foundation.

The south end of the house is only one bay deep. The basement is fairly high and the stone foundation is broken by large twin windows of 2-over-2 double-hung sash design, fitted with shutters. There are larger twin windows at both first- and second-story levels, with 2-over-2, vertically divided, double-hung sash windows. These windows are supplied with unusually wide louvered shutters, one shutter for each window frame.

The gable end attic window is square with four lights. A scroll-sawn, heart-shaped pendant is attached at the gable peak. The eaves overhang at both the gable ends and along the side walls of the house. The rear porch is shed-roofed, supported by a row of six square, wooden columns and its deck is a full story, above grade, leaving a full story of useful sheltered space or recess at ground level under the porch.

(continued)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The north end of the house is two bays deep in the main block and contains a one-story bay window with three surfaces and its own hip roof in the bay nearest the street at first-story level. All windows on this facade, including the three set in the bay window, are 2-over-2 types.

Roofing material is greenish rubber tile covering. The entire foundation is stone.

The interior of the house is comfortable but plain. There is a plain fireplace mantel in the north parlor. A few doors are provided with bull's-eye corner brackets.

There is a square brick, gable-roofed tool shed in the rear yard, covered with slate, the eaves overhanging considerably. North of the house, close to the York Road, is a small, 18 x 22 foot, vertical board stable cantilevered over a stone foundation. The south gable end has two double-hung sash windows of 2-over-2 layout, vertically divided. There are two doors in the forebay of the foundation, and another small door in the overhanging east wall. Inside, the barn is assembled with wooden pegs.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___ IEHISTORIC	___ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___ COMMUNITY PLANNING	___ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___ RELIGION
___ 1400-1499	___ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___ CONSERVATION	___ LAW	___ SCIENCE
___ 1500-1599	___ AGRICULTURE	___ ECONOMICS	___ LITERATURE	___ SCULPTURE
___ 1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	___ EDUCATION	___ MILITARY	___ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___ 1700-1799	___ ART	___ ENGINEERING	___ MUSIC	___ THEATER
X 1800-1899	___ COMMERCE	___ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___ PHILOSOPHY	___ TRANSPORTATION
___ 1900-	___ COMMUNICATIONS	___ INDUSTRY	___ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1881-1896

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present Stiffler house is one of the best-looking rural houses in Parkton and contributes to the streetscape at the north end of town. The three-acre grounds were part of the vast Turner holdings until 1875, and then were part of a 220-acre site purchased by Christof Kolter for his lumbering operation. It was only cleared land in 1881 when advertised by the trustees appointed following the insolvency of Christof and partners. (1) Mary S. Morris, wife of Nicholas Morris, bought some of the former lumbering property in 1878 and, in 1881, for such small sums as \$108, \$96, and \$100. (2)

Presumably, a house was put up soon after, but not until 1896 is there another checkpoint in available records; by that time, Mrs. Mary S. Morris had three acres on the eastside of York Road in Parkton and it was part of "Castle Calder," the old survey name for the Calder-Turner properties. Her assets were then:

Frame House	1200.00
Frame Barn	150.00
Carriage House	50.00
Out Buildings	50.00
2 Cows at \$20	40.00
1 Buggy and harness	20.00
Furniture	150.00
	<u>\$1,960.00</u> (3)

The property passed to Nicholas Morris in 1906, and then to his son, Jacob W. Morris, who received a title from trustees in 1908. (4) Two years later, Morris and wife, Elizabeth B., sold to Jacob C. Stiffler and Bertha R. Stiffler for \$2,550; three contiguous lots came with the transaction. (5)

The springhouse was mentioned in the 1907 inventory of Nicholas Morris' estate, as were three bedrooms and the usual furnishings. (6)

The 1917 listed Jacob Stiffler with the dwelling (\$1,200), plus barn and outbuildings (\$250), one horse (\$100), and busi-

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1, ITEM 8, PAGE 2

## MORRIS-STIFFLER HOUSE

ness assets" (\$1,200). He acquired an Auburn auto (\$600) in or before 1916. (7) The more detailed tax ledger of 1918 gave dimensions:

Jacob C. Stiffler		
3 a. on York road in Parkton adj.	Fannie A. Hendrix N. @ \$133 1/3 Per Ac.	\$400
Dwelling	22 x 34 2 stories	1374
Barn	18 x 22	166
Out bldgs		75
Vehicles	20 L. Stock <sup>100</sup>	120. (8)

A notation of 1920 added a warehouse at Parkton station, plus fixtures and \$500 in merchandise. Jacob C. Stiffler kept a store that stood on the grounds of the Parkton Hotel near the railroad station; that building has subsequently vanished.

The property devolved upon Mrs. Bertha R. Stiffler, who died on August 3, 1955, leaving the property to her daughters, Emily R. Stiffler and Ethel S. Carpenter. Miss Emily R. Stiffler acquired sole title in 1967. (9)

## NOTES:

1. Judicial Records, WMI 76:467, 470, 492.
2. B.C. Deeds, JB 109:463 and JB 108:458.
3. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1896, Entry No. 353-73.
4. Deeds, WPC 334:271.
5. B.C. Deeds, WPC 357:123.
6. Inventories, WJP 35:235.
7. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1911, f. 721.
8. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 783.
9. B.C. Deeds, OTG 4759:445.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

MORRIS-STIFFLER HOUSE

Baltimore County Deeds, Tax Ledgers, interview with owner.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.0

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Metes and bounds not specified in deed. Parcel bounds approximately 350 feet along a curve on the eastside of York Road. Maximum depth of property is 425 feet. Tract is bounded on its west by the York Road, and it slopes from the house site into a small stream valley. Bounded on south by Parcel P217, on north by Parcel P142. (Map 17, Parcel P296).

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning and Zoning

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

DATE

May 20, 1980

TELEPHONE

494-3495

STATE

Maryland 21204

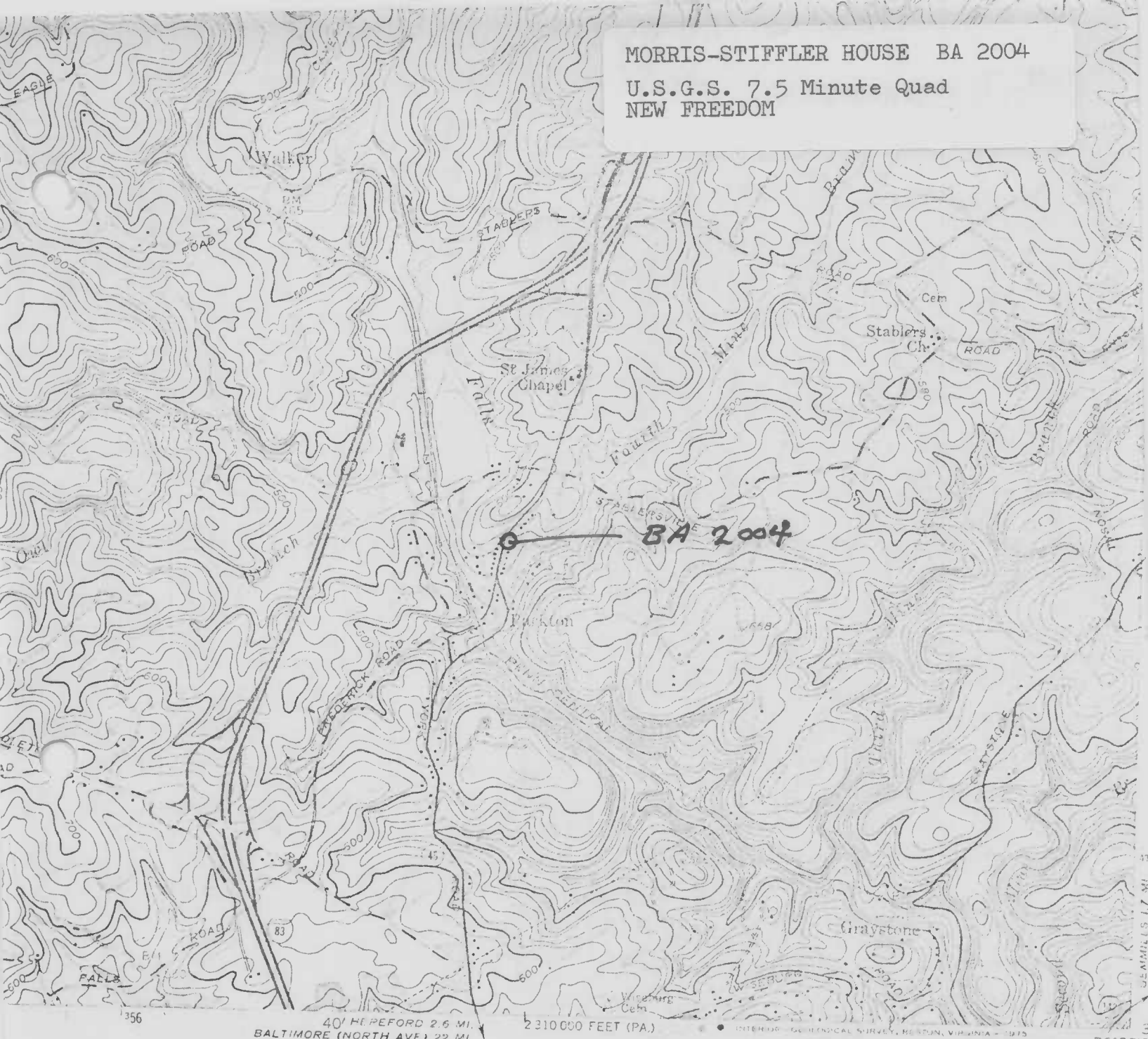
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

MORRIS-STIFFLER HOUSE BA 2004

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad  
NEW FREEDOM



40' HEREFORD 2.6 MI.  
BALTIMORE (NORTH AVE) 22 MI.

2310000 FEET (PA.)

759000m E.

WHITE HALL 0.3 MI. 75°37'3"

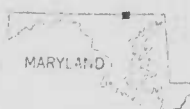
1 MILE

5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETRE

FEET

UM OF 1929



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

#### ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty .....  
Medium-duty - - - - - Unimproved dirt - - - - -

U.S. Route

State Route

NEW FREEDOM, MD.-PA.

N3937.5—W7637.5/7.5

1958

PHOTOREVISED 1974

AMS 5663 II NW-SERIES V833

ACCURACY STANDARDS  
STON, VIRGINIA 22092.  
DLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological  
Survey from aerial photographs taken 1974. This  
information not field checked.





MORRIS-STIFFLER HOUSE BA 2004  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, March 1980  
Neg. located at MHT  
South gable end



MORRIS-STIFFLER HOUSE, BARN  
Baltimore Co., Md. BA 2004A  
J. McGrain, March, 1980  
Neg. located at MHT  
South gable end